

FiBL

Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau FiBL
info.suisse@fibl.org | www.fibl.org

trans4num 



Trans4Num: Exchange on SOLm and food systems modelling between CAU/CAAS & FiBL

Adrian Müller

adrian.mueller@fibl.org

Online, April 10, 2024, 10.30 – 12.00

Team (all from the Department of Food System Sciences FSS)



**Adrian
Müller**



**Nina
Zarrineh**



**Kevin
De Luca**



**Anke
Möhring**



**Claudia
Meier**



**Christian
Grovermann**

Workshop Goals

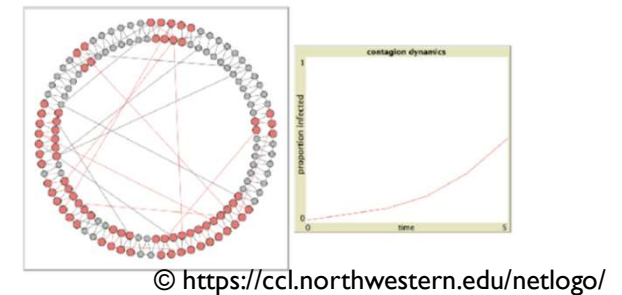
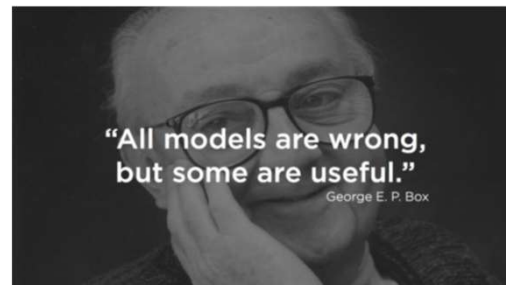
- What are food system models and when and why are they used?
- What is SOLm

Workshop Outline

Wednesday April 10 2024,
10.30 – 12.00

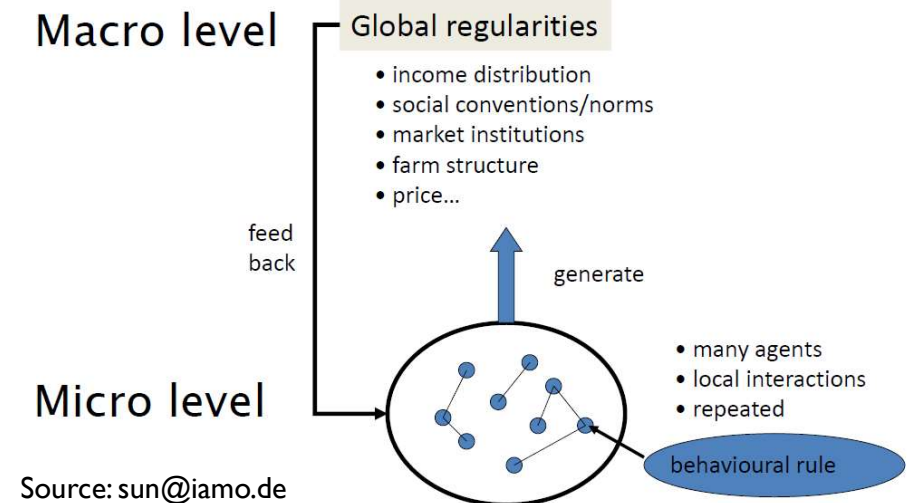
1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Food system modelling
3. SOLm structure and data
4. Option space and scenarios
5. Policy and decision support
6. Technical details
7. Wrap up and questions

Models



- Models are structures (abstract or physical) that can potentially represent real-world phenomena.
- “If we want to make reality and therefore truth useful to science, we must do violence the reality. ... In nature, everything is equally essential. By seeking out the relationships that seem essential to us, we order the material in a surveyable way at the same time. Then we are doing science.” Source: Jakob von Uexküll, 1909
- “Scientific modelling is a scientific activity, the aim of which is to make a particular part or feature of the world easier to understand, define, quantify, visualize, or simulate by referencing it to existing and usually commonly accepted knowledge”.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_modelling



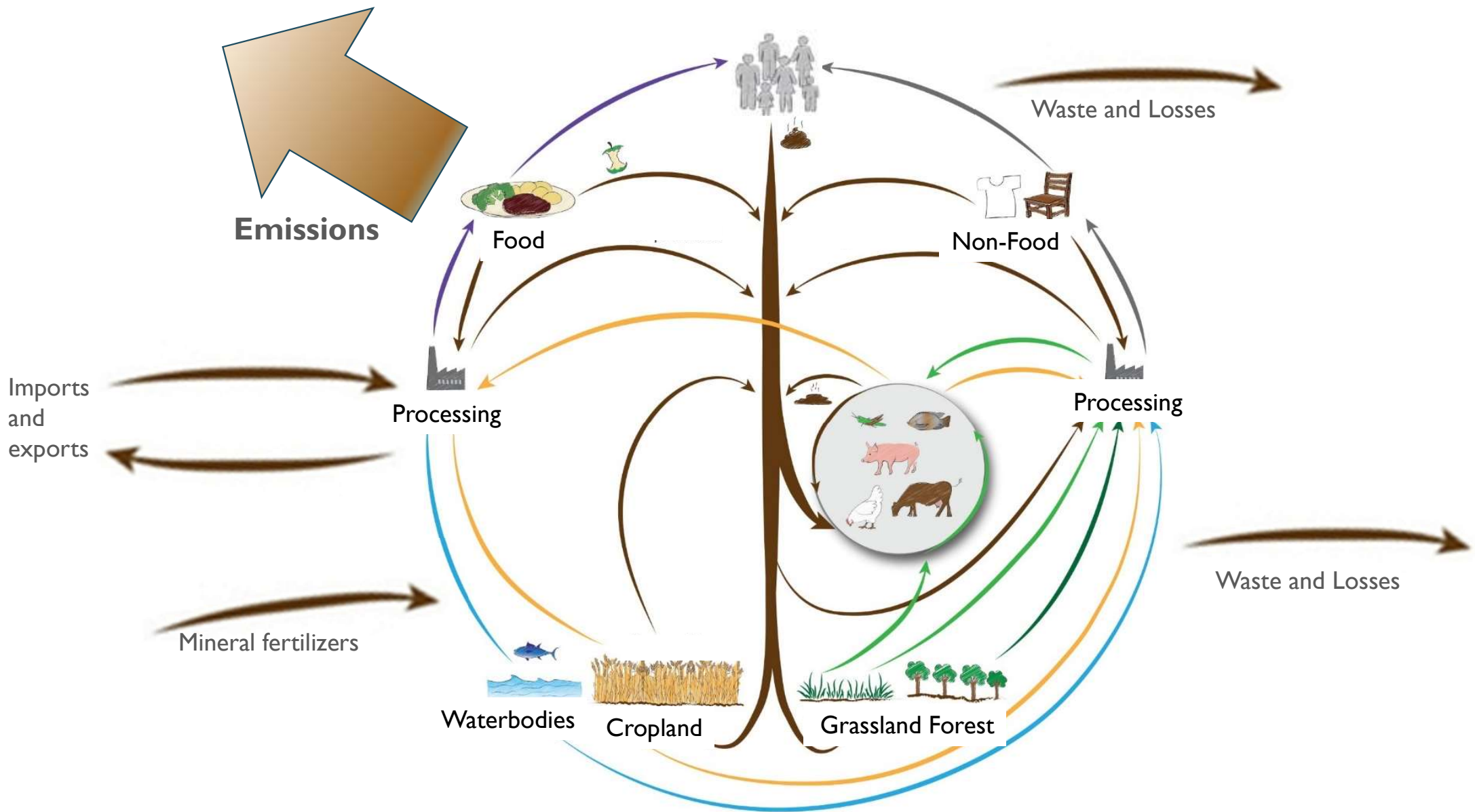
Source: sun@iamo.de

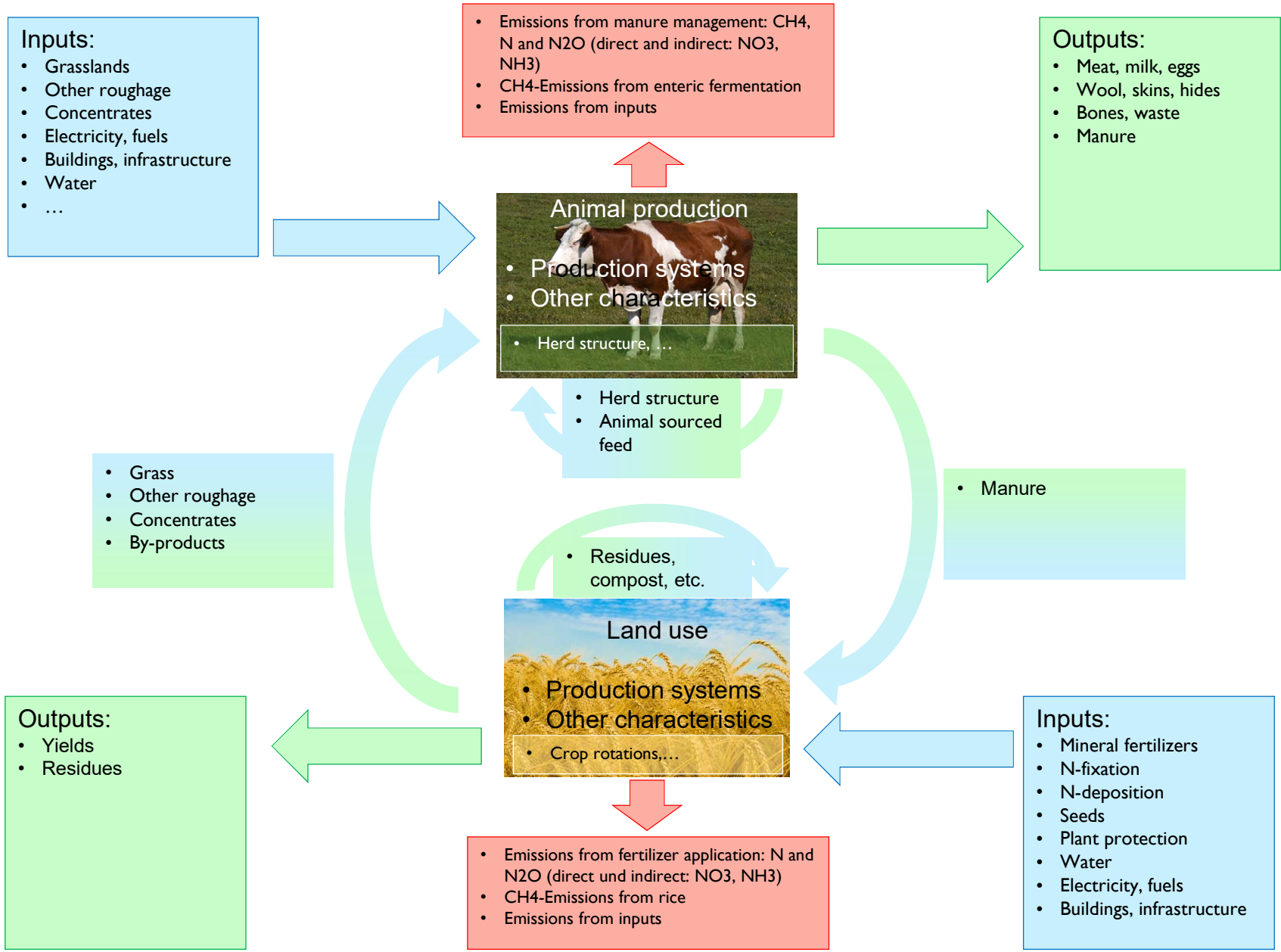
(Food System) Models

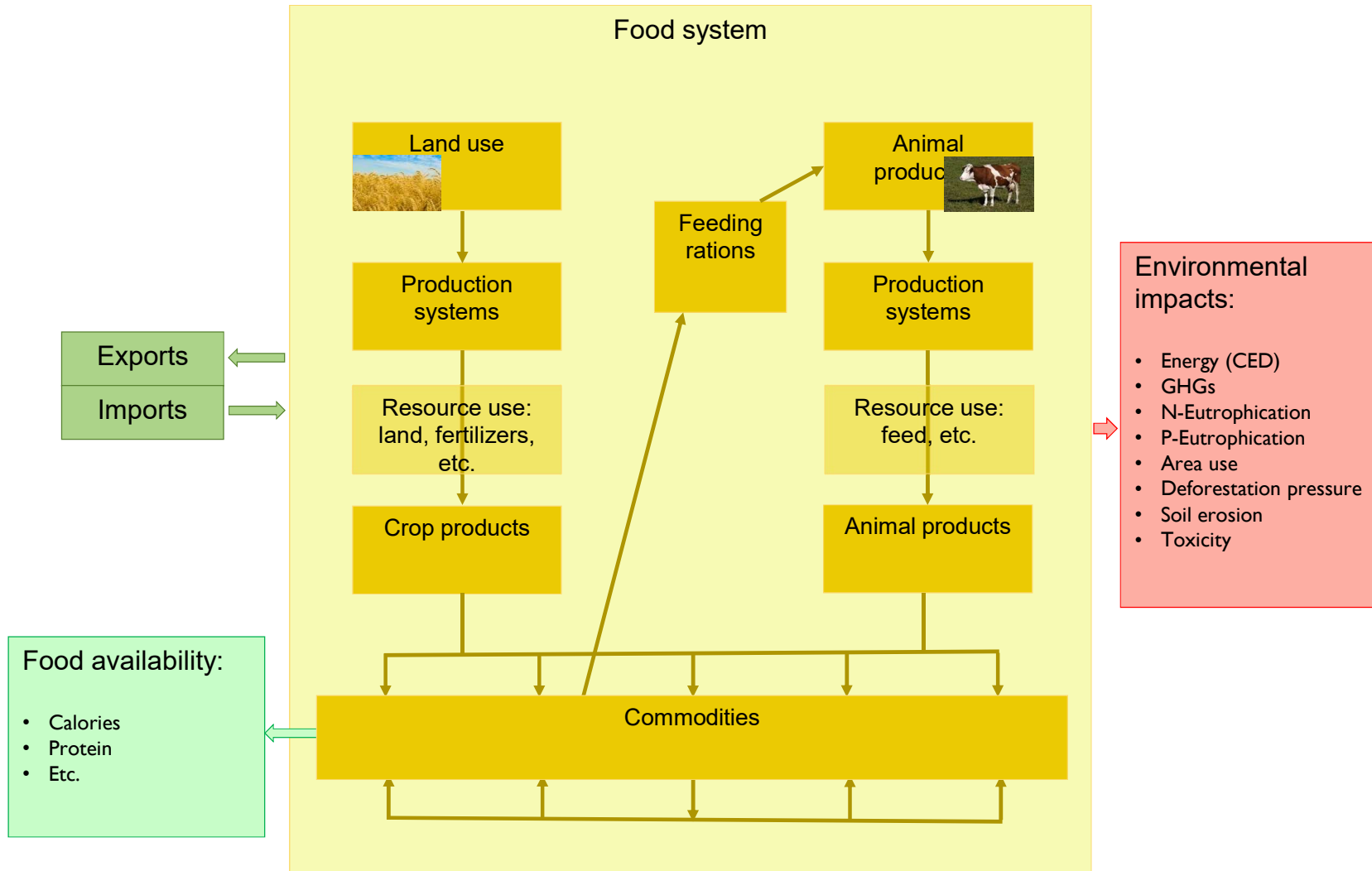
- Identify gross, robust relations
- A focus on trade-offs and synergies between different aspects
- Results often indicate what will be problematic, less so what will be the solution
- Use as a “boundary object” to inspire debates between various stakeholders

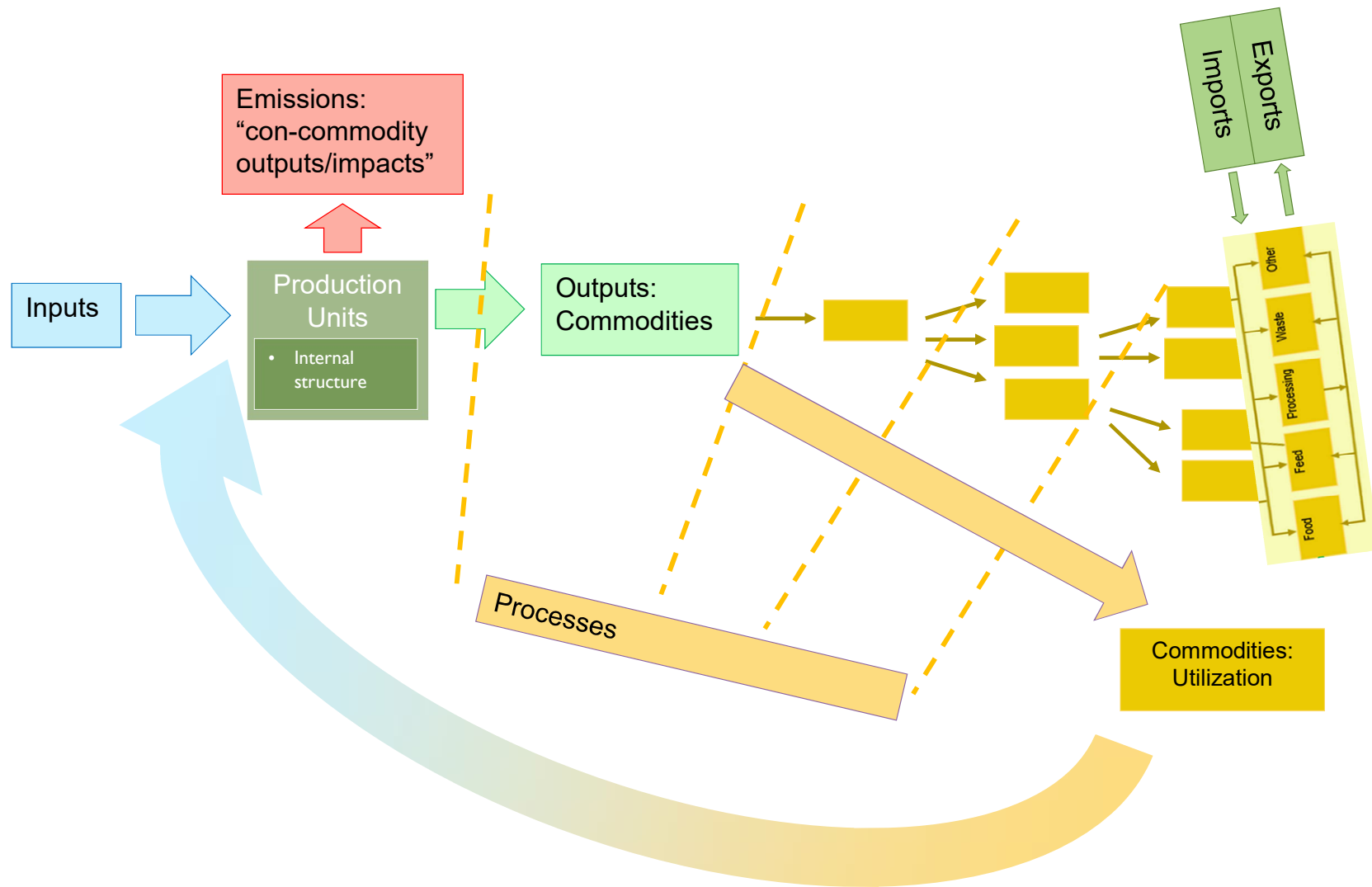
The way we code

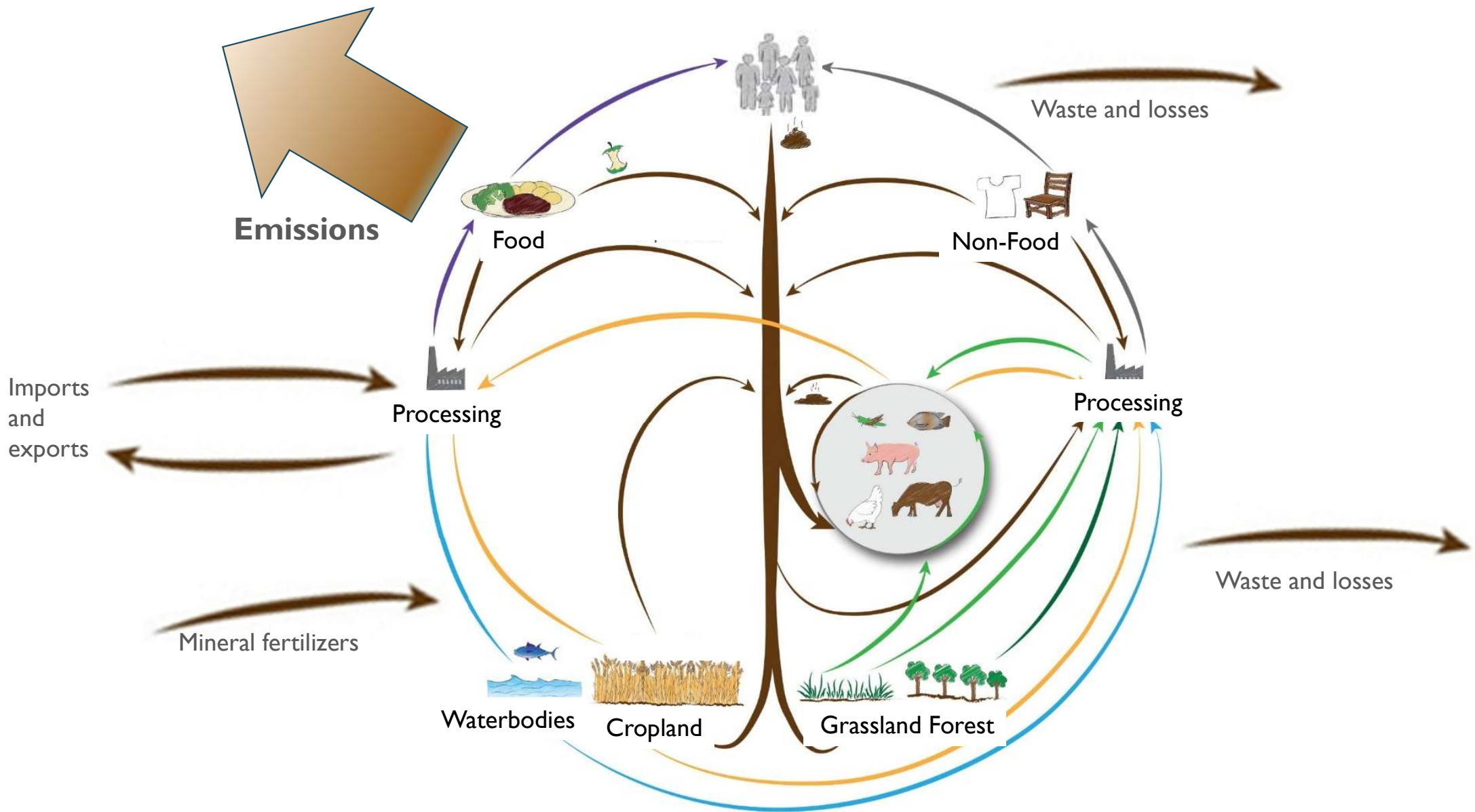
- We are no data scientists
- All the more: we try to start from the characteristics of the data structure and less so from agronomic knowledge
- Coding is like writing: inspiration, the right moment to work efficiently
- Some technicalities
 - Flexible (generic code much to be specified in scenario specifications)
 - Modular
 - Functions to avoid copy-past, etc.
 - R and SQLite

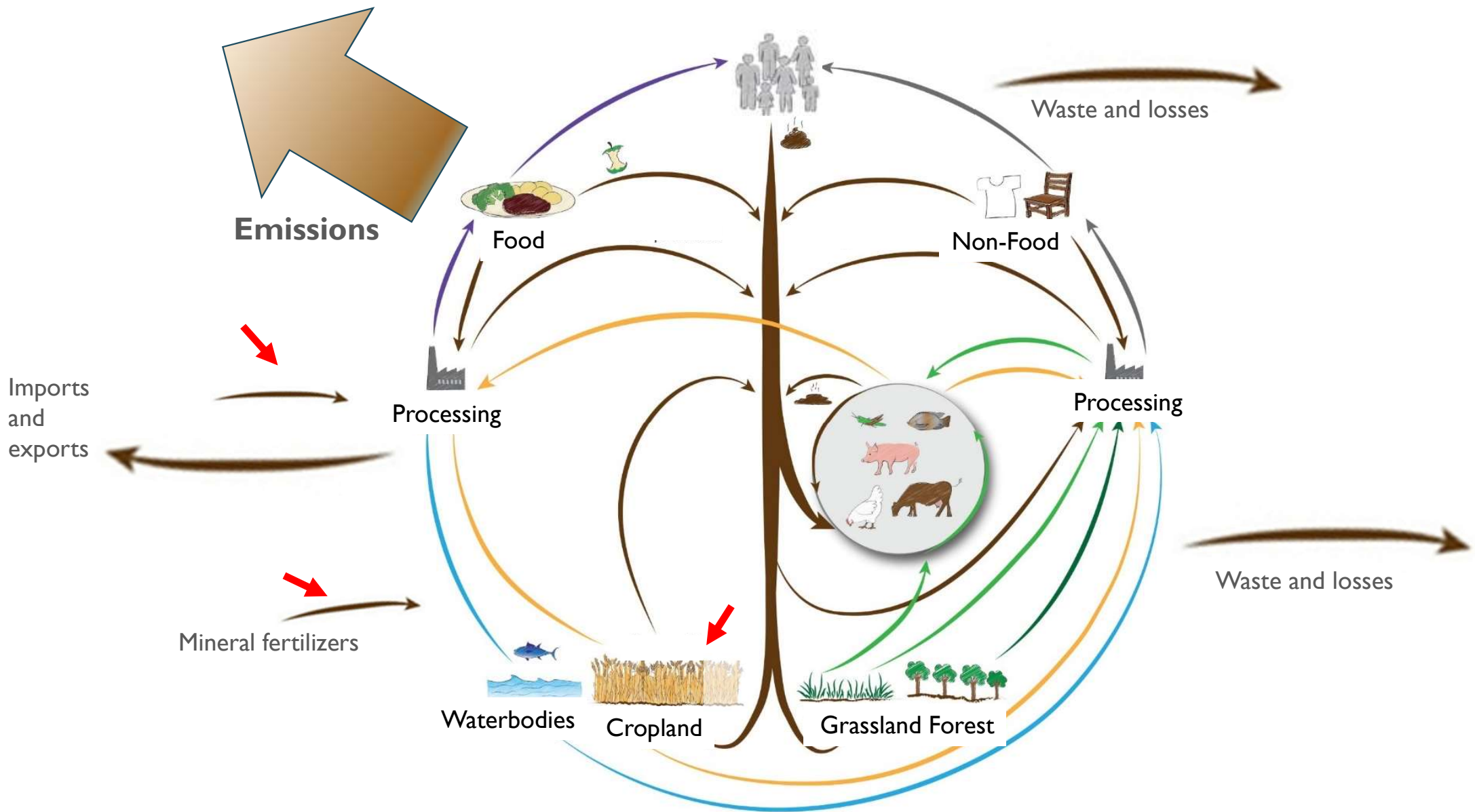


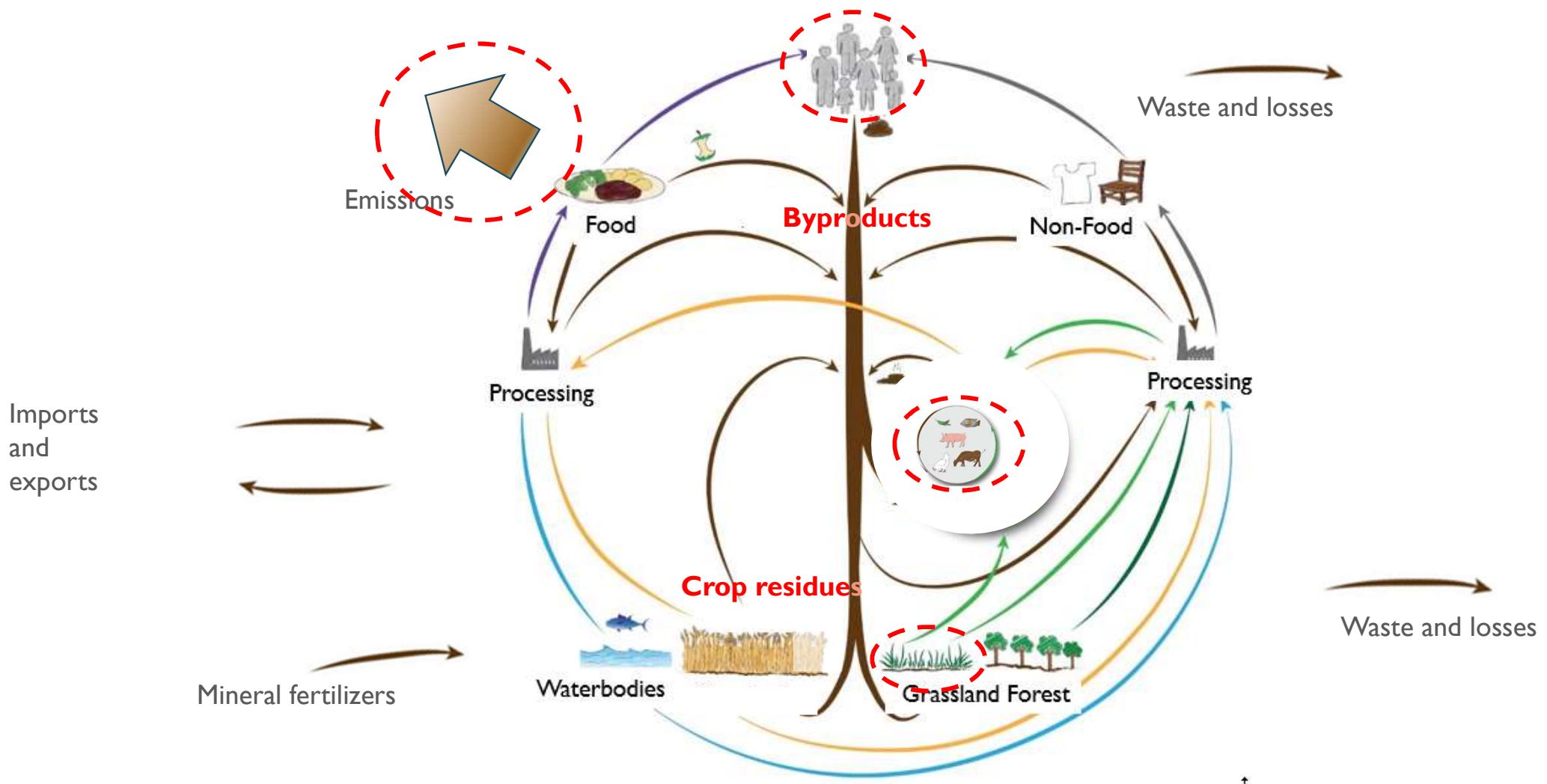












SOLm structure and basic functioning

- These models trace the biomass and nutrient flows driven by
 - the internal modelling structure/equations and
 - a number of assumptions (e.g. on the parameter values on the dimensions determining the options space)
- No optimization, but driven by a social planner (advantages/disadvantages)
 - Many assumptions to be made “by hand”
 - Generally driven by “ceteris paribus” assumptions: “all else equal”
 - Baseline/calibration
 - Avoiding corner solutions
 - “realistic scenarios” vs. optimal ones
 - Multiple maxima in option spaces
 - Very flexible and detailed, etc.
 - Fast

SOLm data

- The model is fed with and calibrated by a large number of different data, e.g. from
 - FAOSTAT
 - IPCC
 - National GHG inventories
 - National nitrogen balances
 - Various publications with global datasets (e.g. erosion, gridded yield suitability data, etc.)
 - Etc.

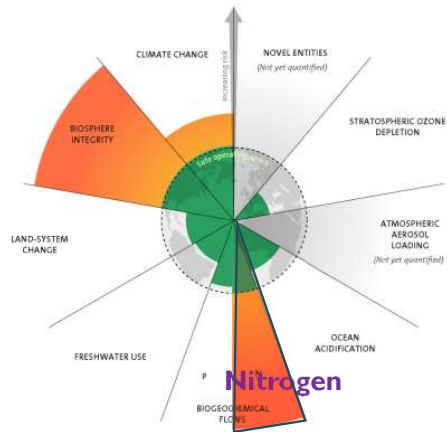
Option space and scenarios

- How to tell the stories – narratives - communication
- The bio-physical models we use allow to line out the option space of future agriculture and food systems
- The **option space** is the totality of all options that emerge from combining different levels along a number of different key dimensions, e.g.
 - Yields
 - Share of organic production
 - Level of reduction in food-competing feed for animals
 - Level of food waste reduction
 - Diets
 - GHG mitigation goals
 - Etc.

Option space and scenarios

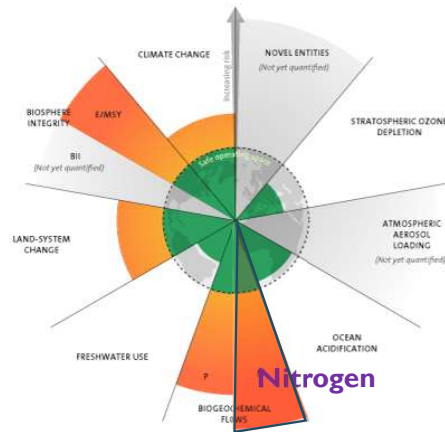
- Each option in the option space can then be assessed according to their performance regarding various indicators, such as e.g.
 - Land use
 - Deforestation
 - Nitrogen surplus
 - GHG emissions
 - Biodiversity pressures
 - etc.

2009



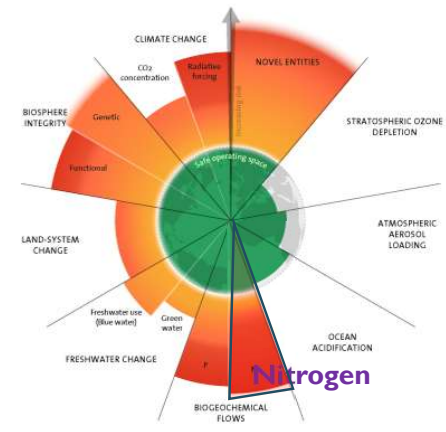
3 boundaries crossed

2015

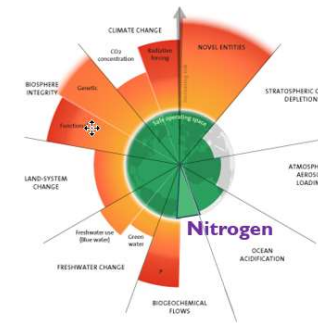
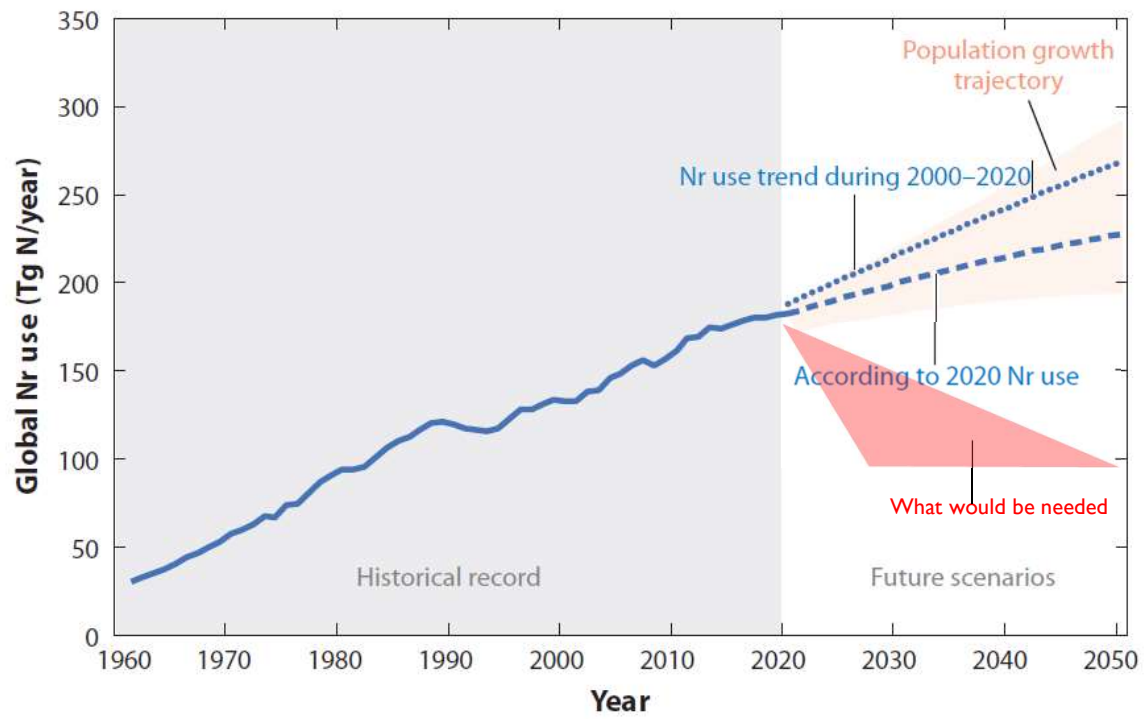


4 boundaries crossed

2023



6 boundaries crossed





% Reduction in
food-competing feed

0

50

100

% Organic

0

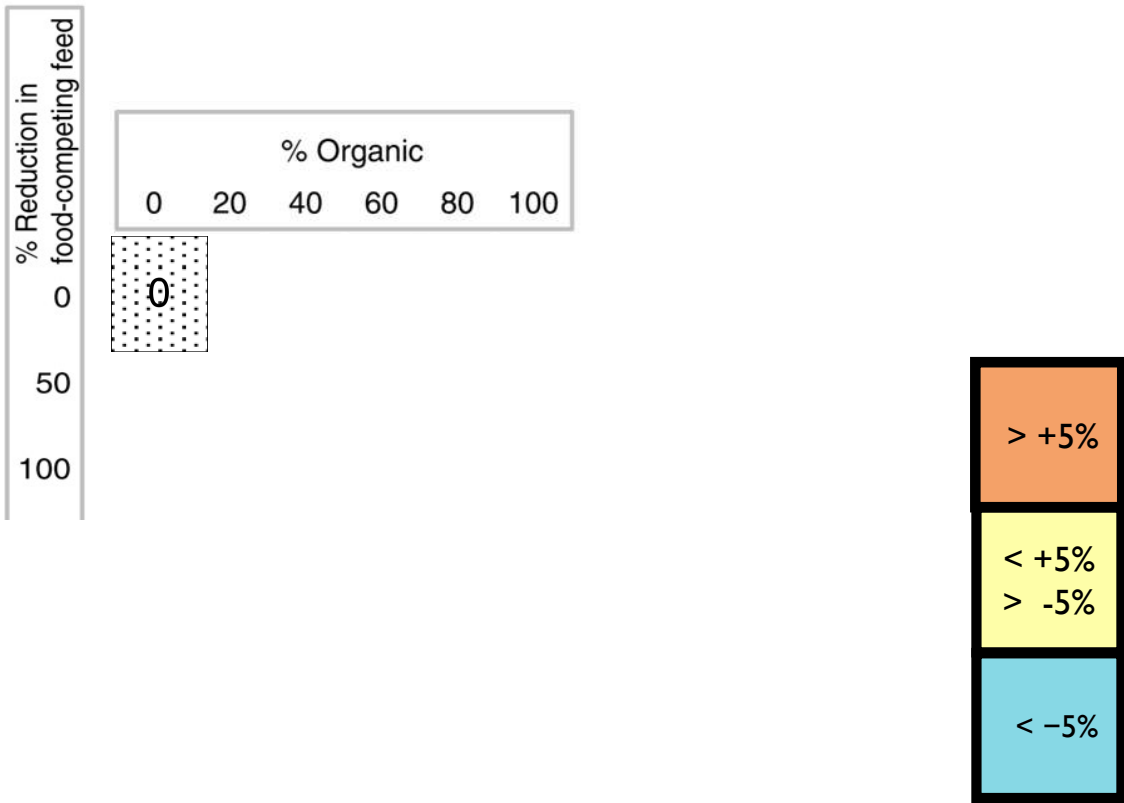
20

40

60

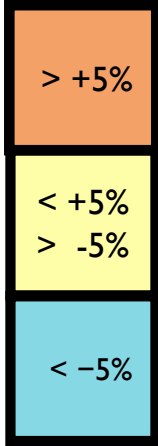
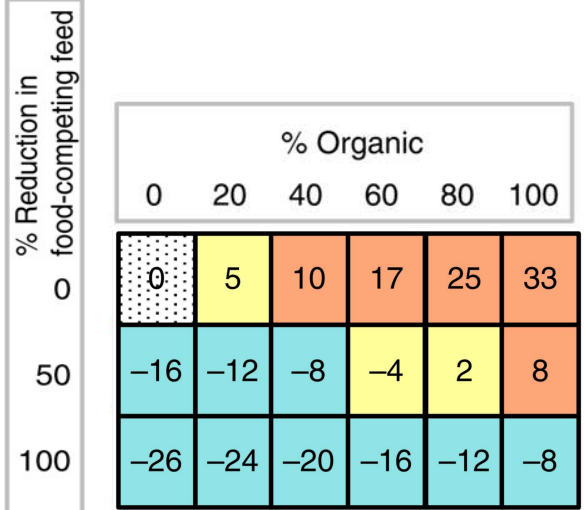
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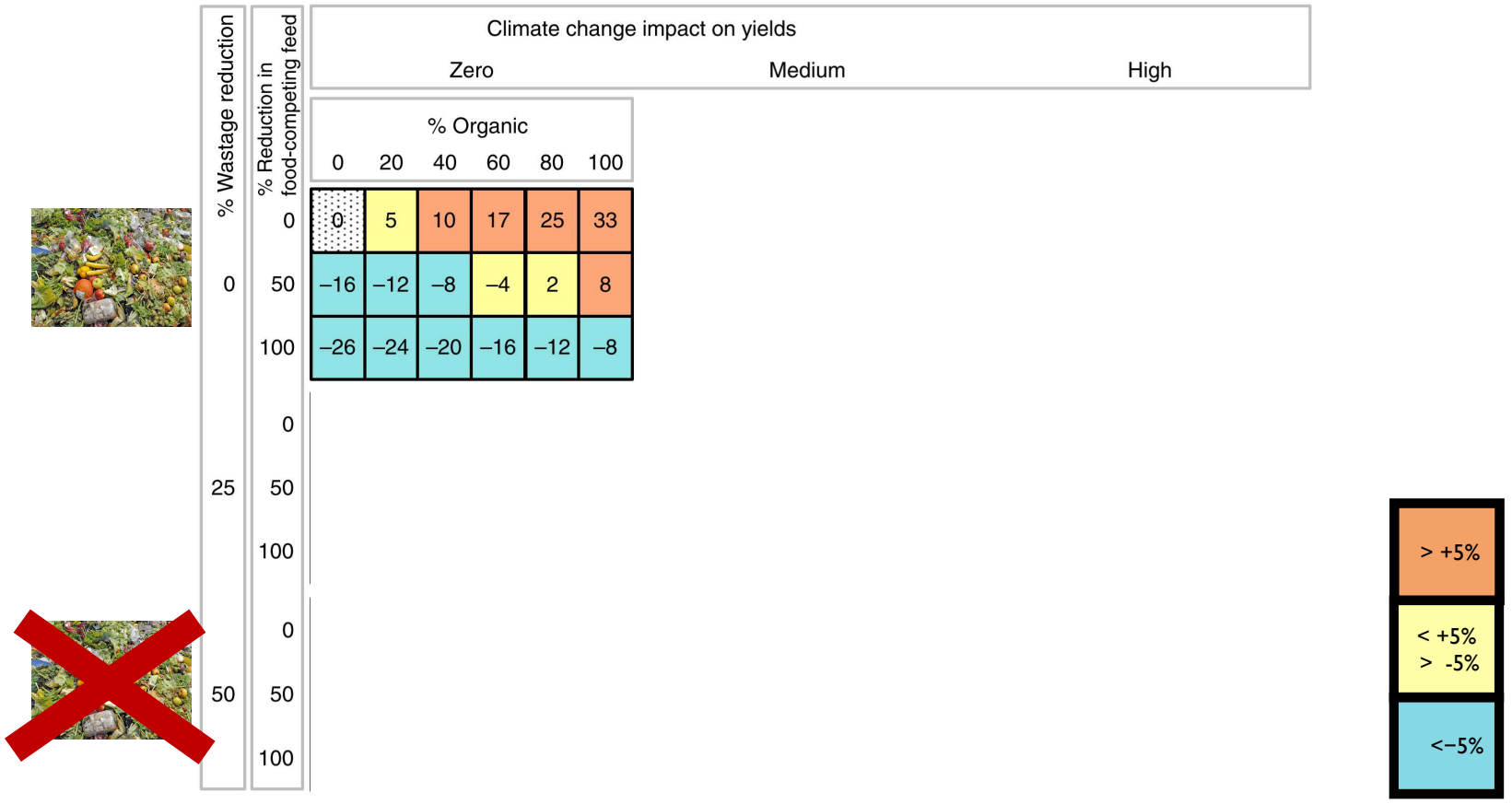
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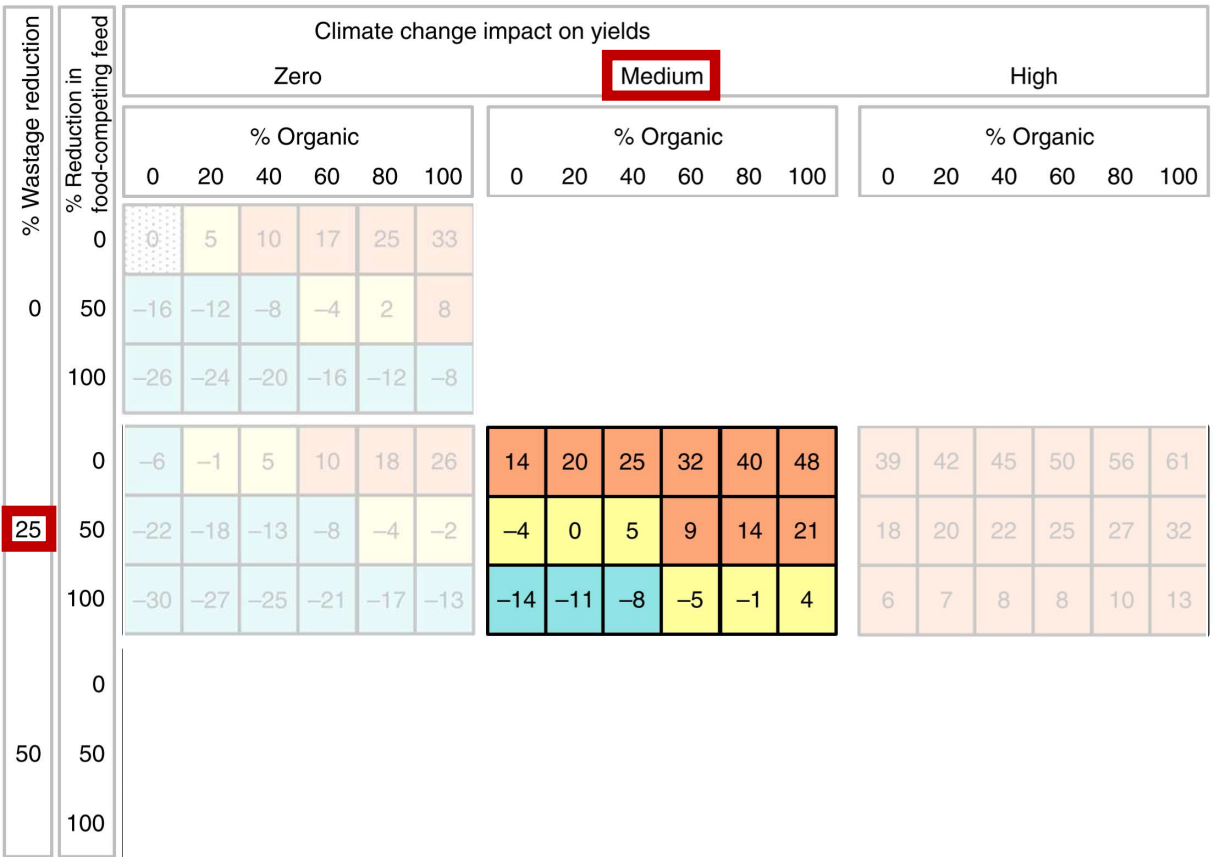


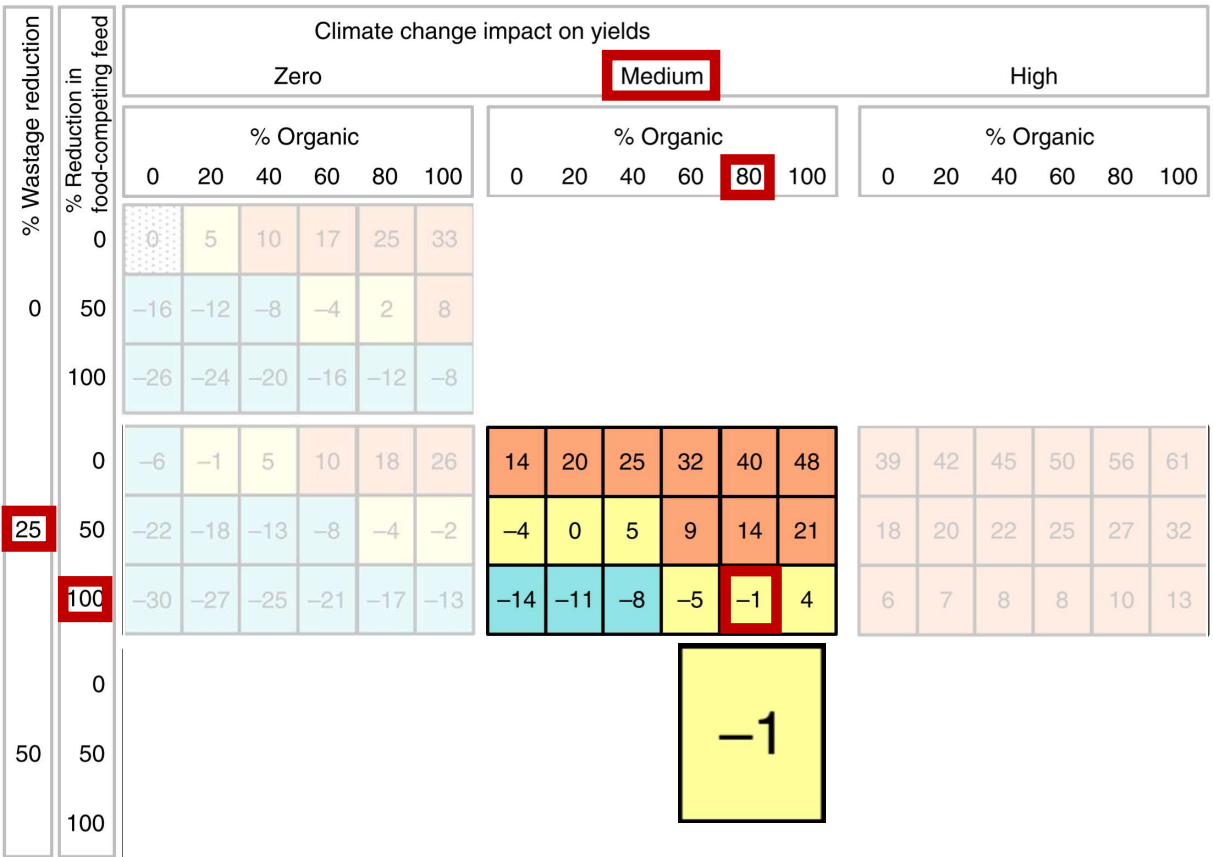
% Reduction in food-competing feed	% Organic					
	0	20	40	60	80	100
0	0	5	10	17	25	33
50	-16	-12	-8	-4	2	8
100	-26	-24	-20	-16	-12	-8



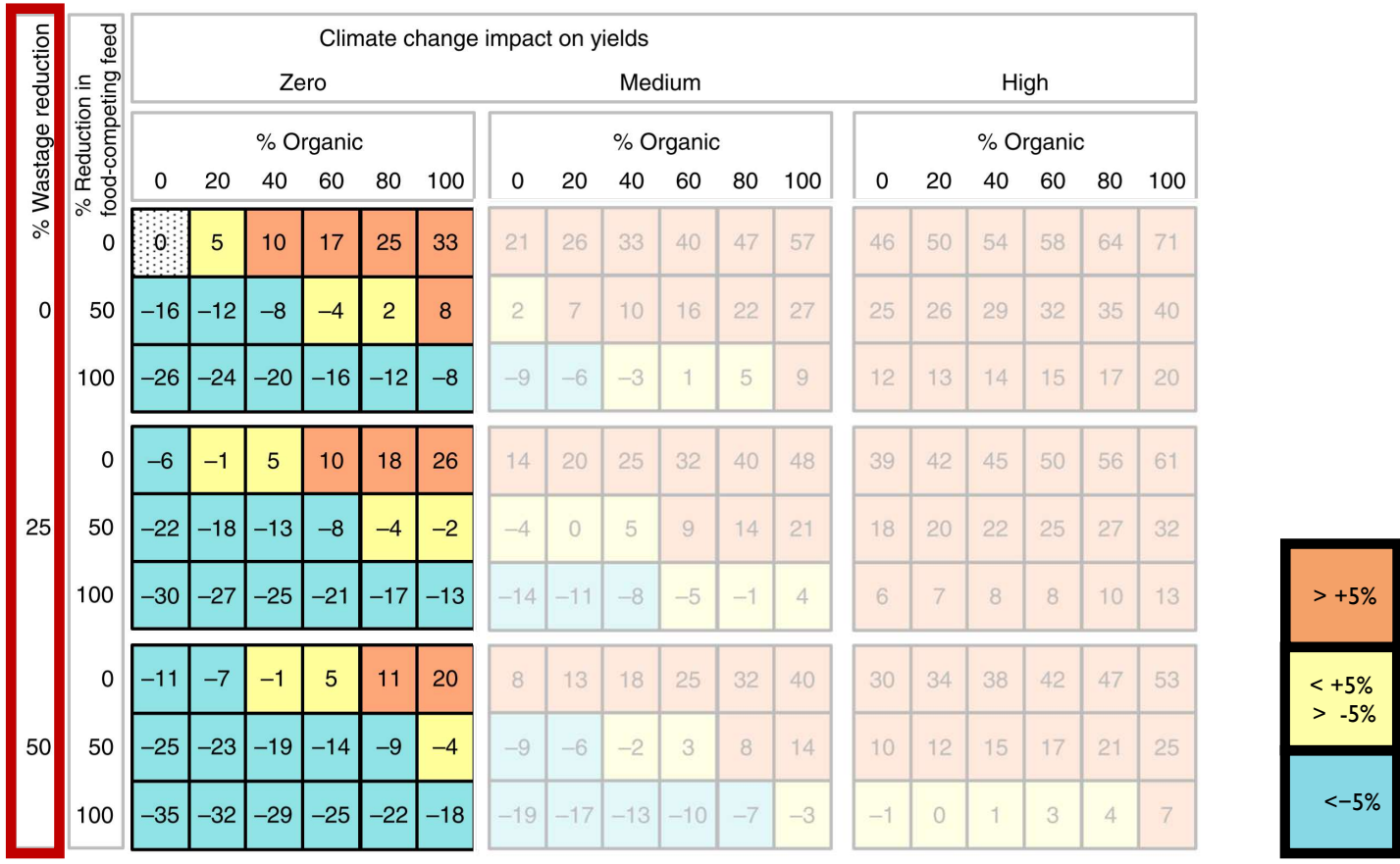


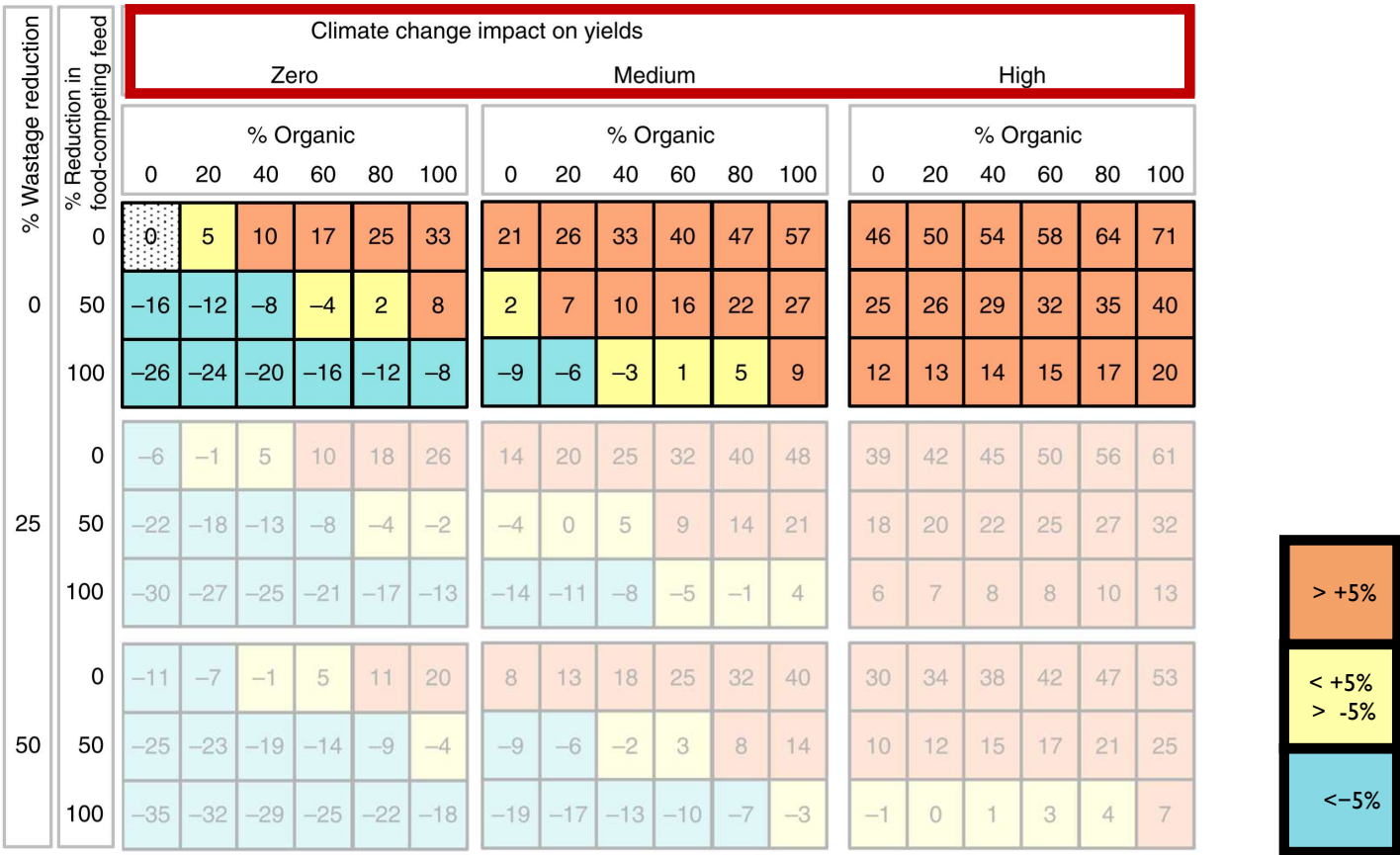


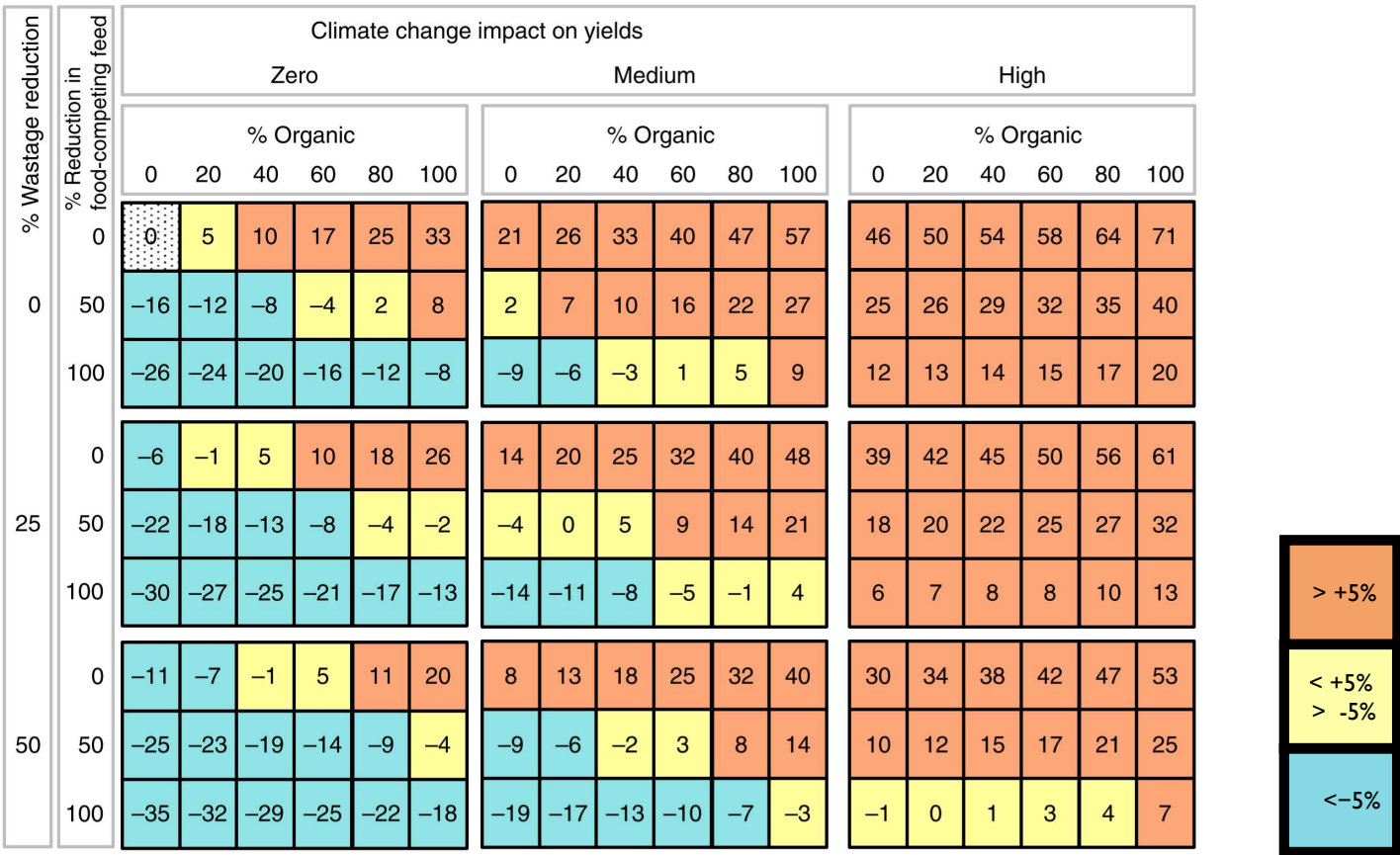




-1





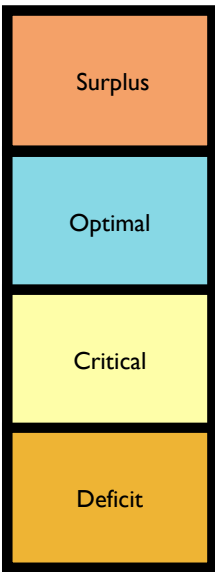
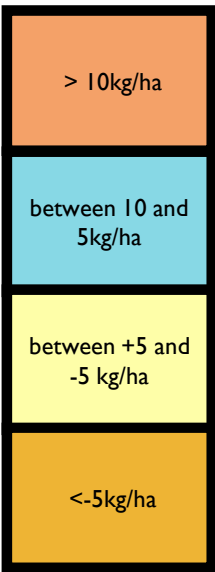


Nutrient supply in organic agriculture

- Not only the products, but also the fertilizer is produced on the fields.
- Challenge to provide sufficient nutrients, especially N and P

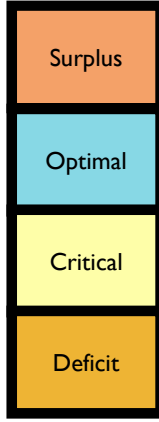


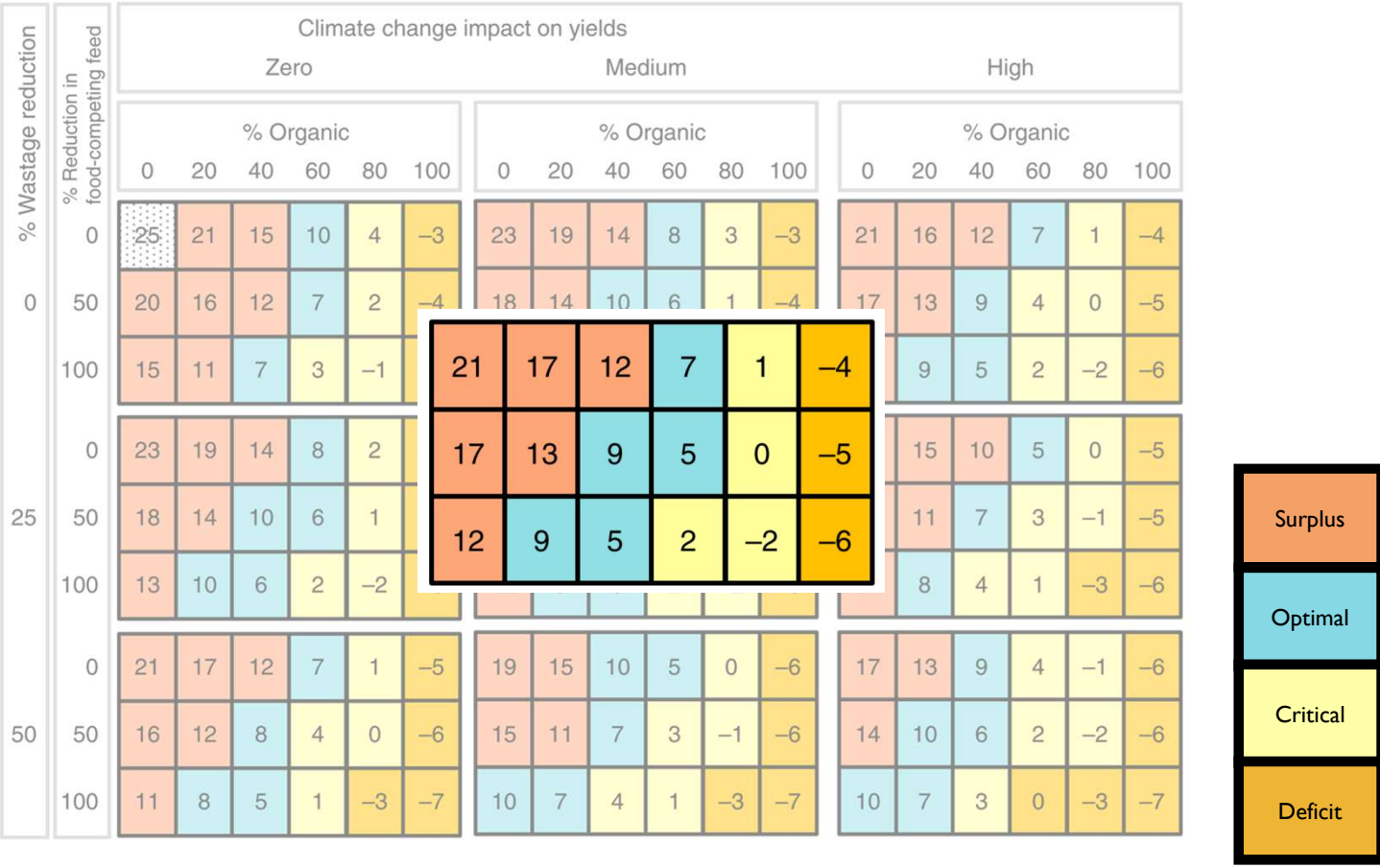
		Climate change impact on yields																	
		Zero						Medium						High					
		% Organic						% Organic						% Organic					
% Wastage reduction	% Reduction in food-competing feed	0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100
		25	0	21	15	10	4	-3	23	19	14	8	3	-3	21	16	12	7	1
0	50	20	16	12	7	2	-4	18	14	10	6	1	-4	17	13	9	4	0	-5
	100	15	11	7	3	-1	-5	13	10	7	3	-1	-5	12	9	5	2	-2	-6
25	0	23	19	14	8	2	-4	21	17	12	7	1	-4	19	15	10	5	0	-5
	50	18	14	10	6	1	-5	17	13	9	5	0	-5	15	11	7	3	-1	-5
	100	13	10	6	2	-2	-6	12	9	5	2	-2	-6	11	8	4	1	-3	-6
50	0	21	17	12	7	1	-5	19	15	10	5	0	-6	17	13	9	4	-1	-6
	50	16	12	8	4	0	-6	15	11	7	3	-1	-6	14	10	6	2	-2	-6
	100	11	8	5	1	-3	-7	10	7	4	1	-3	-7	10	7	3	0	-3	-7



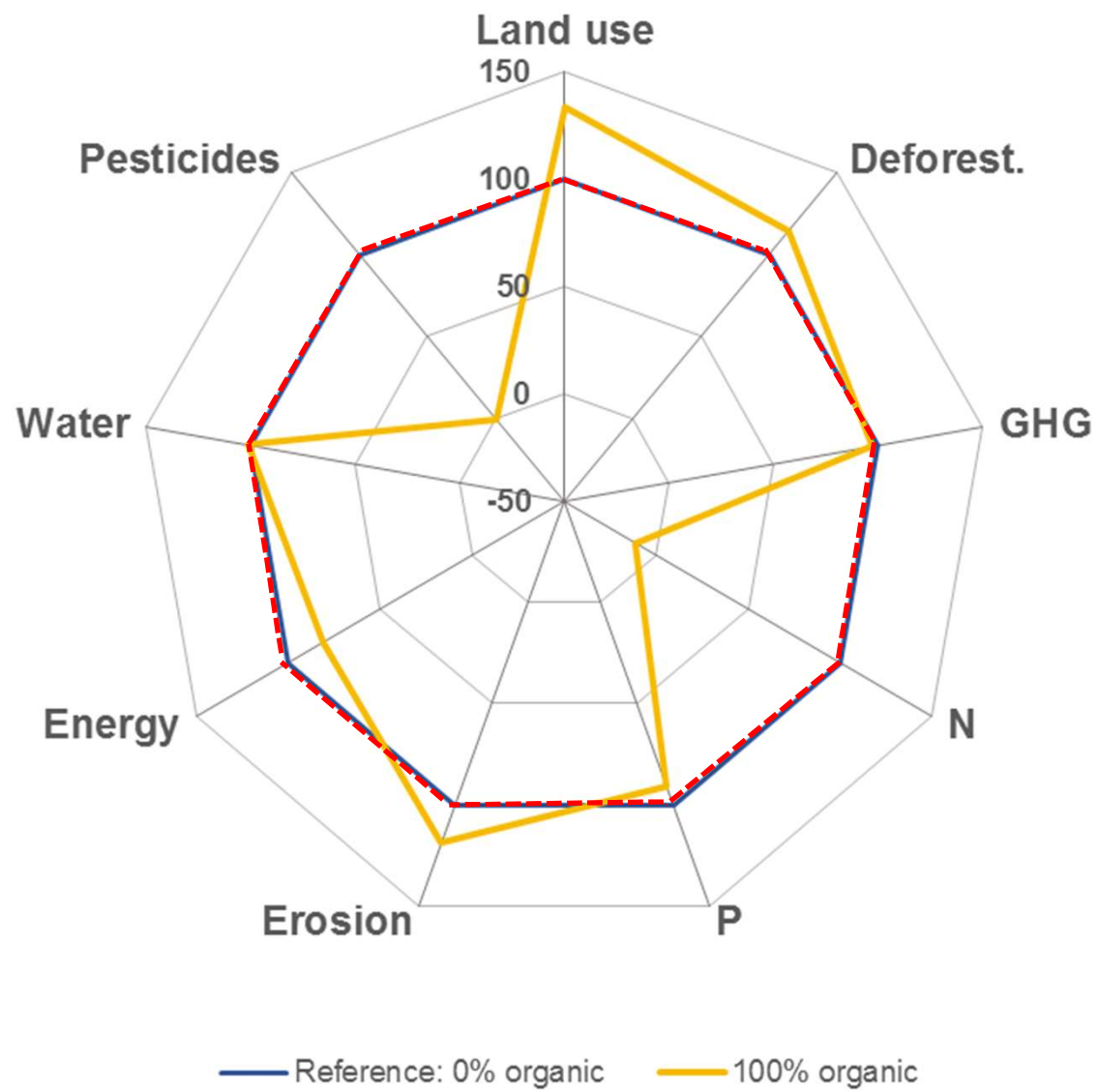
		Climate change impact on yields																	
		Zero						Medium						High					
		% Organic						% Organic						% Organic					
% Wastage reduction		0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100
0	0	25	21	15	10	4	-3	23	19	14	8	3	-3	21	16	12	7	1	-4
	50	20	15	10	5	0	-4	18	14	10	6	1	-4	17	13	9	4	0	-5
	100	15	10	5	0	-1	-5	13	10	7	3	-1	-5	12	9	5	2	-2	-6
25	0	23	19	14	8	3	-4	21	17	12	7	1	-4	19	15	10	5	0	-5
	50	18	14	10	6	1	-5	17	13	9	5	0	-5	15	11	7	3	-1	-5
	100	13	10	6	2	-2	-6	12	9	5	2	-2	-6	11	8	4	1	-3	-6
50	0	21	17	12	7	1	-5	19	15	10	5	0	-6	17	13	9	4	-1	-6
	50	16	12	8	4	0	-6	15	11	7	3	-1	-6	14	10	6	2	-2	-6
	100	11	8	5	1	-3	-7	10	7	4	1	-3	-7	10	7	3	0	-3	-7

25

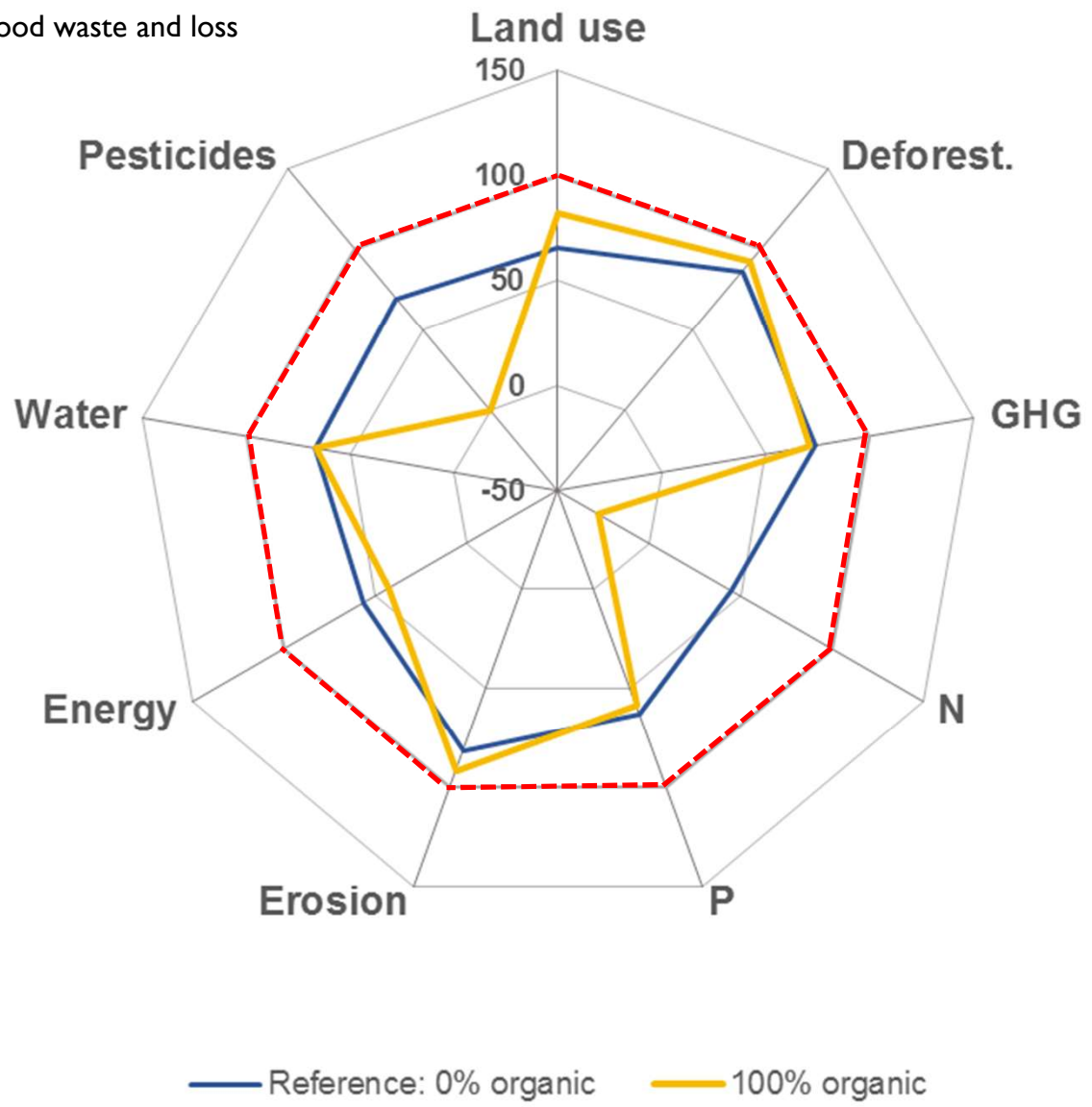




**Other environmental impacts besides
land use and nitrogen supply**



100% food competing feed reduction
50% less food waste and loss





% Wastage reduction % Reduction in food-competing feed		Climate change impact on yields																	
		Zero					Medium					High							
		% Organic					% Organic					% Organic							
		0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100
0	0	0	5	10	17	25	33	21	26	33	40	47	57	46	50	54	58	64	71
	50	-16	-12	-8	-4	2	8	2	7	10	16	22	27	25	26	29	32	35	40
	100	-26	-24	-20	-16	-12	-8	-9	-6	-3	1	5	9	12	13	14	15	17	20
25	0	-6	-1	5	10	18	26	14	20	25	32	40	48	39	42	45	50	56	61
	50	-22	-18	-13	-8	-4	-2	-4	0	5	9	14	21	18	20	22	25	27	32
	100	-30	-27	-25	-21	-17	-13	-14	-11	-8	-5	-1	4	6	7	8	8	10	13
50	0	-11	-7	-1	5	11	20	8	13	18	25	32	40	30	34	38	42	47	53
	50	-25	-23	-19	-14	-9	-4	-9	-6	-2	3	8	14	10	12	15	17	21	25
	100	-35	-32	-29	-25	-22	-18	-19	-17	-13	-9	-5	-1	-1	0	1	3	4	7

% Wastage reduction % Reduction in food-competing feed		Climate change impact on yields																	
		Zero					Medium					High							
		% Organic					% Organic					% Organic							
		0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100	0	20	40	60	80	100
0	0	25	21	15	10	4	-3	23	19	14	8	3	-3	21	16	12	7	1	-4
	50	20	16	12	7	2	-4	18	14	10	6	1	-4	17	13	9	4	0	-5
	100	15	11	7	3	-1	-5	13	10	7	3	-1	-5	12	9	5	2	-2	-6
25	0	23	19	14	8	2	-4	21	17	12	7	1	-4	19	15	10	5	0	-5
	50	18	14	10	6	1	-5	17	13	9	5	0	-5	15	11	7	3	-1	-5
	100	13	10	6	2	-2	-6	12	9	5	2	-2	-6	11	8	4	1	-3	-6
50	0	21	17	12	7	1	-5	19	15	10	5	0	-6	17	13	9	4	-1	-6
	50	16	12	8	4	0	-6	15	11	7	3	-1	-6	14	10	6	2	-2	-6
	100	11	8	5	1	-3	-7	10	7	4	0	-3	-7	10	7	3	0	-3	-7

**We know what to do for
being able to build on
NBS/agroecology
for sustainable food systems:**

- less waste and losses
- less feed from cropland
- less animals
- (less fossil energy)

- less nitrogen
- less pesticides



**Size
of the
food system**

Land use

Billion hectares

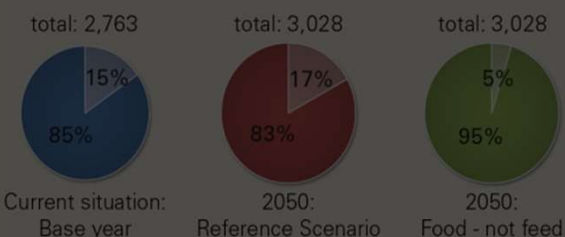
Land occupation:

- Current situation: Base year
- 2050: Reference scenario
- 2050: Food - not feed

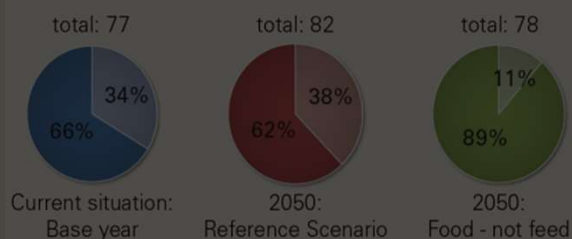


Diets

Energy intake
Kcal/cap/day



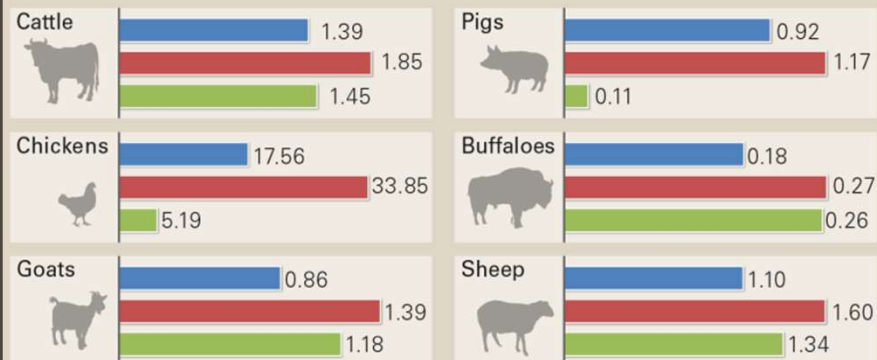
Protein intake
G Protein/cap/day



Livestock

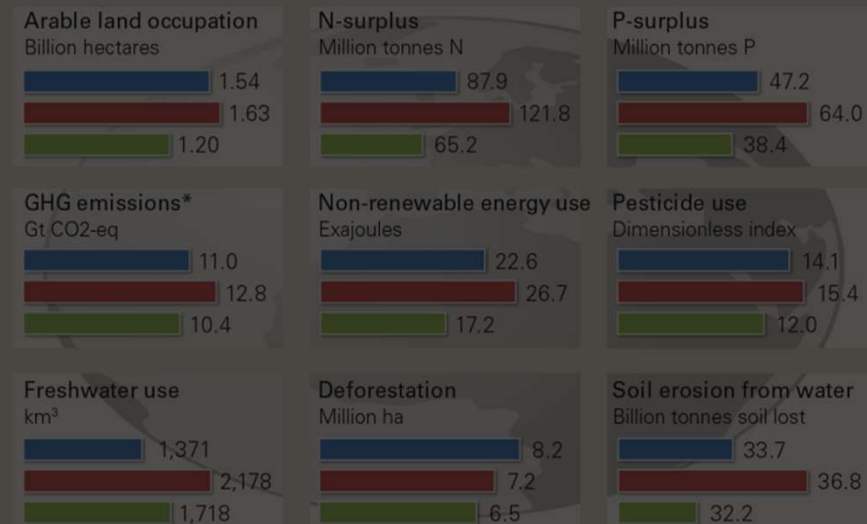
Billion animals

- Current situation: Base year
- 2050: Reference Scenario
- 2050: Food - not feed



Environment

- Current situation: Base year
- 2050: Reference Scenario
- 2050: Food - not feed



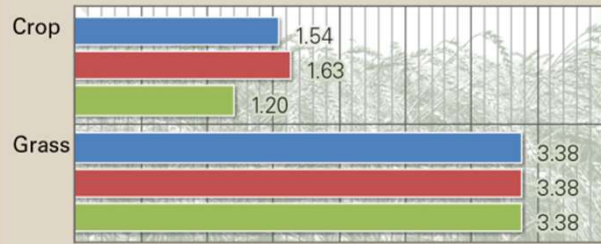
* GHG emissions include emissions from input provision, deforestation and organic soils.

Land use

Billion hectares

Land occupation:

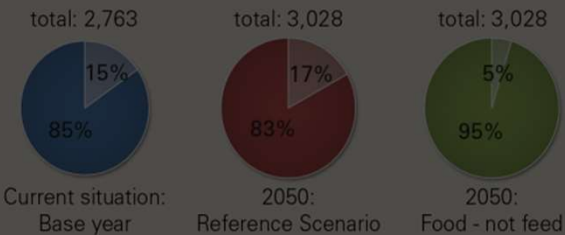
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Diets

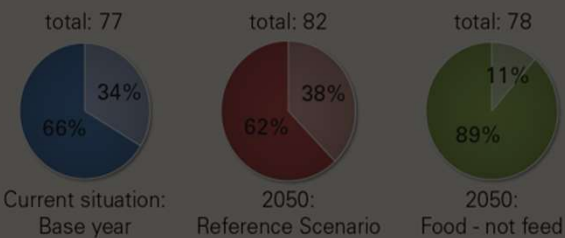
Energy intake
Kcal/cap/day

● livestock products
● plant products



Protein intake
G Protein/cap/day

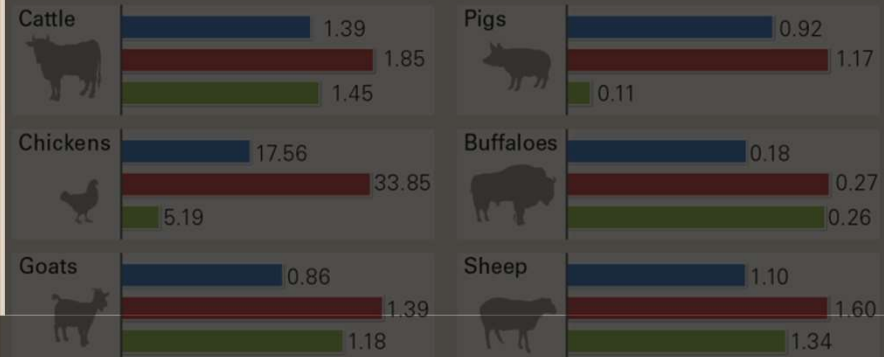
● livestock products
● plant products



Livestock

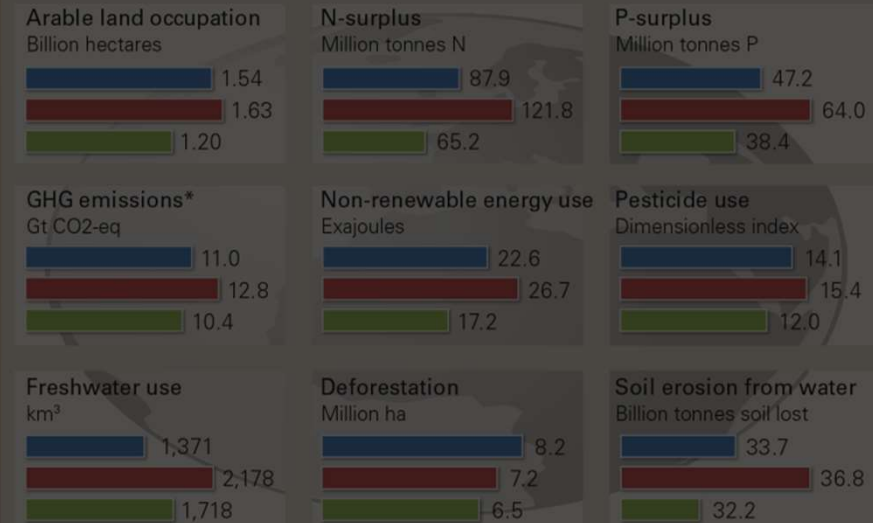
Billion animals

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Environment

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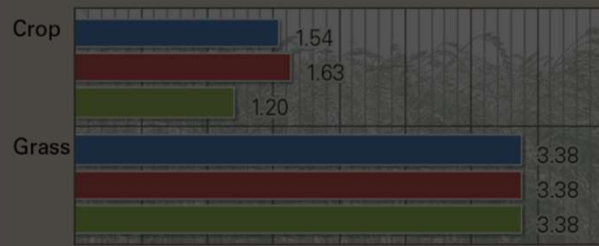
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Land use

Billion hectares

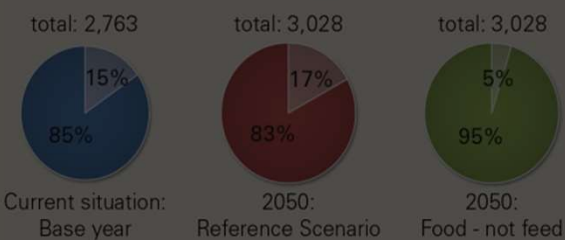
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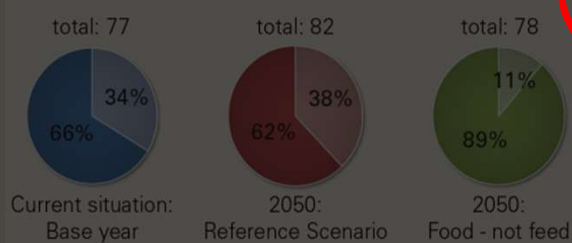


Diets

Energy intake
Kcal/cap/day



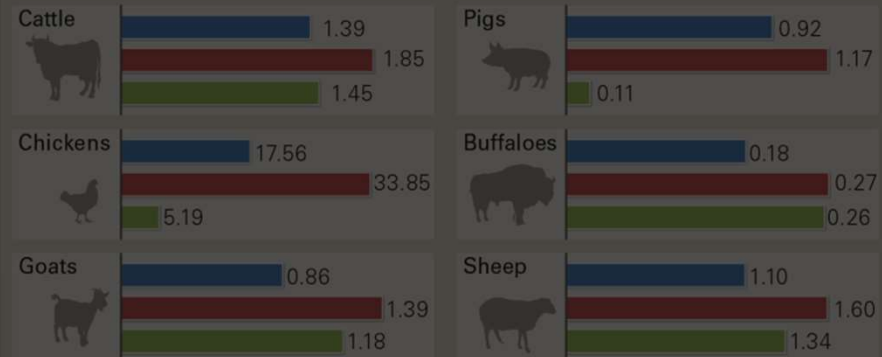
Protein intake
G Protein/cap/day



Livestock

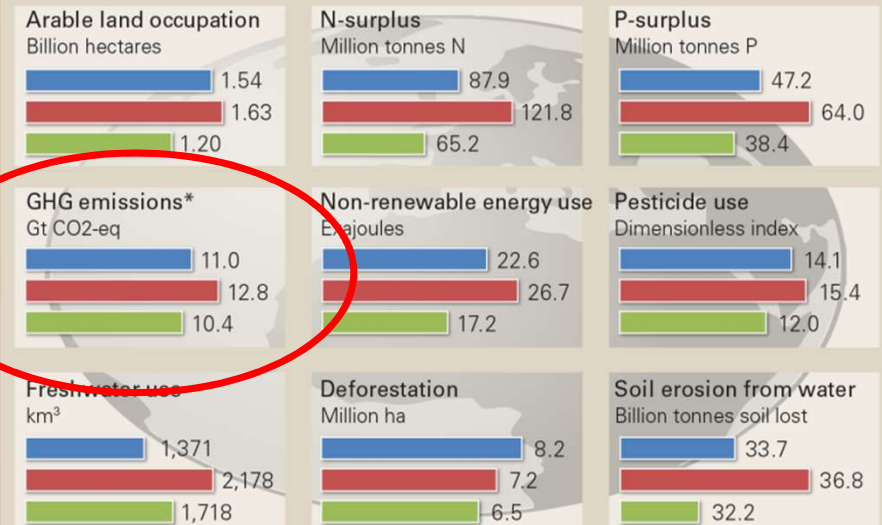
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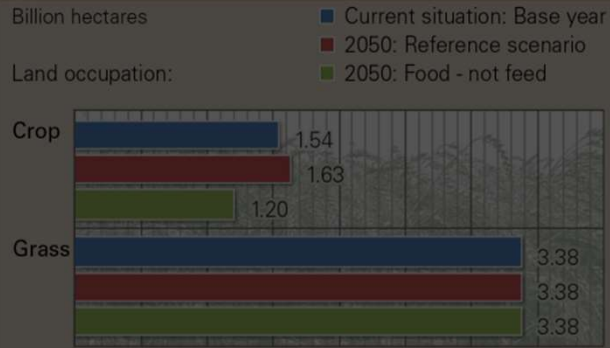
Environment

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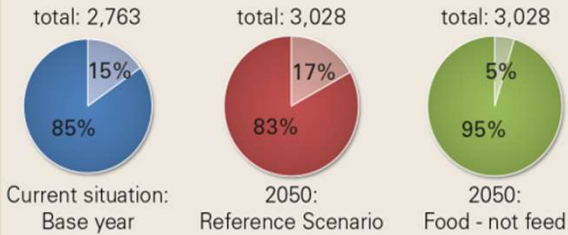
Land use



Diets

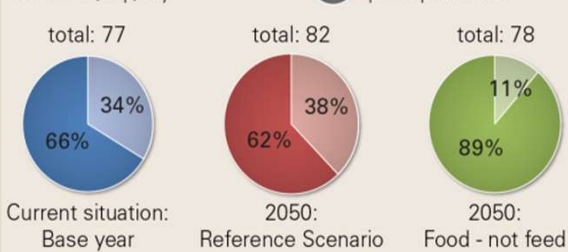
Energy intake

Kcal/cap/day

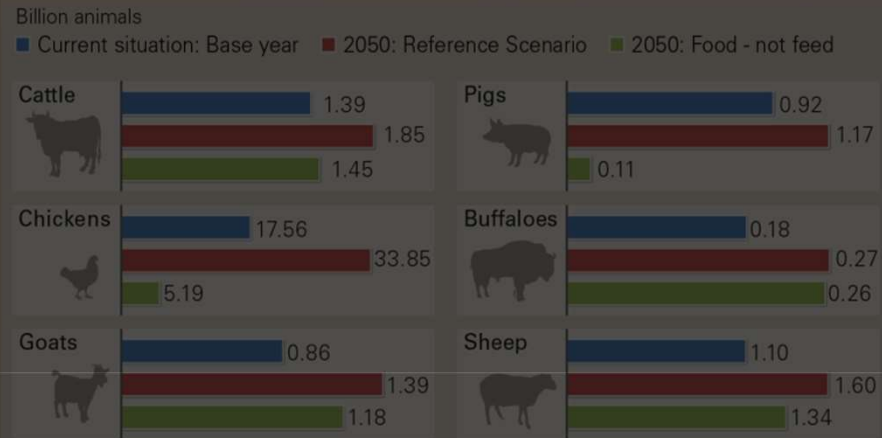


Protein intake

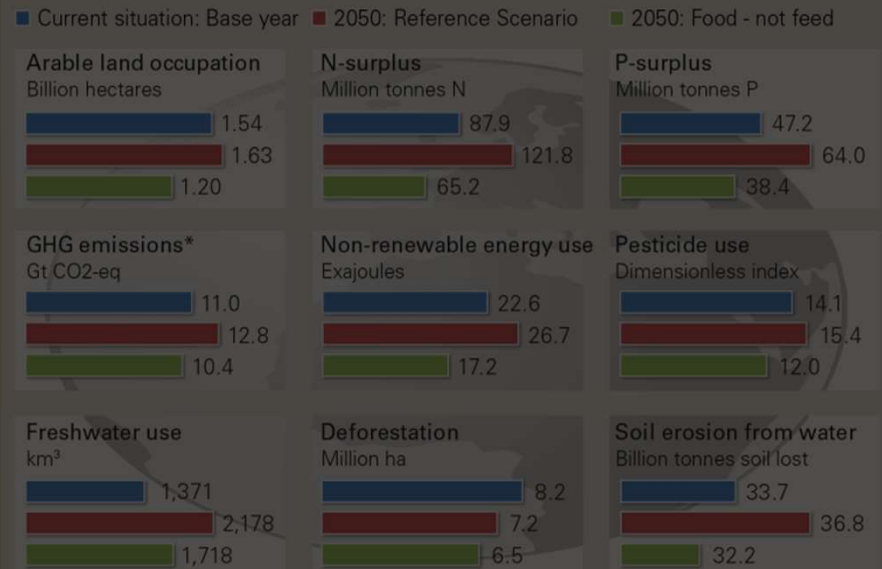
G Protein/cap/day



Livestock



Environment



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Option space and scenarios

- How to tell the story
- The bio-physical models we use allow to line out the option space of future agriculture and food systems
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 - Level of reduction in food-competing feed for animals
 - Level of food waste reduction
 - Diets
 - GHG mitigation goals
 - Etc.

Option space and scenarios

- Each option in the option space can then be assessed according to their performance regarding various indicators, such as e.g.
 - Land use
 - Deforestation
 - Nitrogen surplus
 - GHG emissions
 - Biodiversity pressures
 - etc.

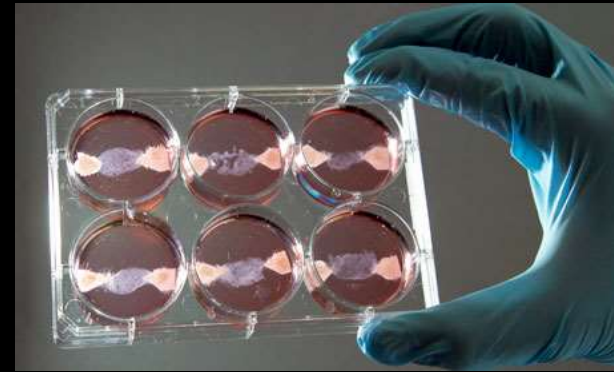
Option space and scenarios

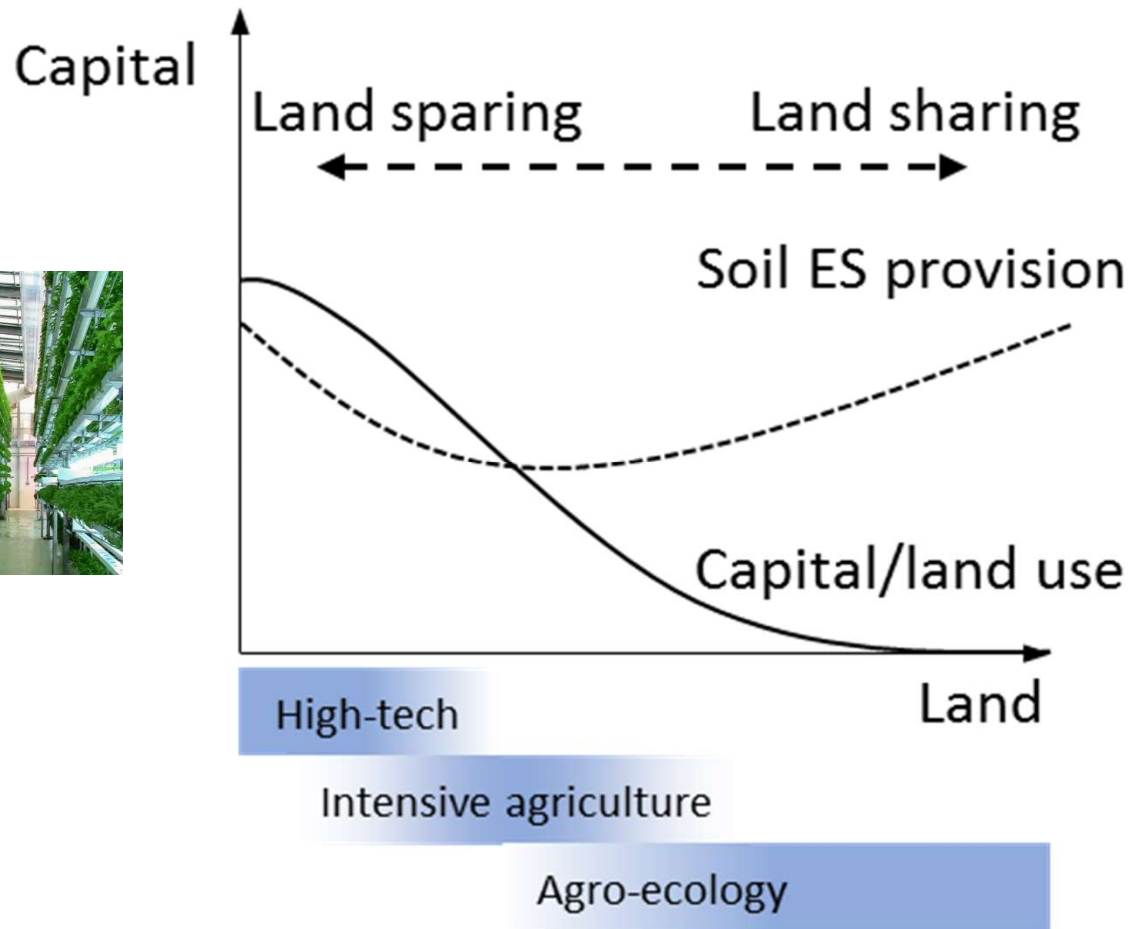
- **Scenarios** are certain options which we amend by a detailed description of which socio-economic dynamic may drive them, e.g. regarding:
 - policies
 - preferences
 - economic development
 - etc.
- Scenarios are thus telling selected stories/narratives within these special options in the option space

Policy and decision support

- We know what to do for being able to build on for sustainable food systems
- Which role for food system modelling results in policy and decision support?
- Focus on trade-offs and synergies

NBS vs. Other, technical approaches





Technical details

- Generic structure of SOLm generated in R/excel and stored in SQLite
- Original data taken from various sources,
 - stored in excel and then loaded to R or
 - directly loaded to R (e.g. FAOSTAT)
- Data processing, preparation in R – keep as raw as possible
- Stored in SQLite, linked to the generic structure

Technical details

- Scenario files
 - load data from SQLite
 - do parameter and other choices and assumptions as needed
 - transform into the form required by the core model
- Core model files:
 - Derive domestically available quantities and their utilization from production unit numbers
 - Derive production unit numbers and yields if not provided at the beginning
 - Calculate outputs and impacts

Technical details

- Post processing
 - Output files
 - Figures and tables
 - Etc.

Technical details

- Core entities
 - **Production Units:**
 - Convert inputs into outputs (“hectare of wheat”, “dairy production unit”)
 - Have some internal structure (herd structure, crop rotation)
 - **Commodities:** Outputs from PUs plus commodities derived via processes along the commodity tree
 - **Processes:** convert one commodity in a number of others (e.g. wheat grain into wheat flour, bran, germ)

Technical details

- Numbers of PUs
- Yields of PUs: Output per PU
- Shares of processes
- Extraction rates of processes
- Utilization of commodities
- Allocation of commodities as inputs to PUs:
 - fertilizer
 - feeding rations

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Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
AnimalCharacteristics_BasicData.xlsx	31.03.2024 07:16	Microsoft Excel-A...	21 KB
APUSharesInFeedSupply_BasicData.xlsx	07.04.2024 22:51	Microsoft Excel-A...	18 KB
CommodityCharacteristics_BasicData.xlsx	01.04.2024 09:33	Microsoft Excel-A...	48 KB
FeedingRations_BasicData.xlsx	01.04.2024 09:38	Microsoft Excel-A...	43 KB
HerdStructures_BasicData.xlsx	29.03.2024 15:56	Microsoft Excel-A...	21 KB
ProductionUnits_BasicData.xlsx	27.03.2024 11:53	Microsoft Excel-A...	231 KB
ScenarioNames.xlsx	19.03.2024 11:45	Microsoft Excel-A...	216 KB
CommodityTrees_BasicStructure_Utilizati...	05.04.2024 14:30	Microsoft Excel-A...	181 KB

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Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
SOLm_BasicStructure.R	05.04.2024 14:51	R-Datei	38 KB
SOLm_Functions.R	29.03.2024 07:42	R-Datei	4 KB
SOLm_LoadGeneralInformation.R	09.04.2024 07:31	R-Datei	2 KB
SOLm_LoadPackagesAndDefinePaths.R	27.03.2024 21:23	R-Datei	3 KB
SOLm_RunBasicCodefilesForInitialisation.R	09.04.2024 21:08	R-Datei	1 KB

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Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
AnimalCharacteristics_DummyData.xlsx	31.03.2024 12:27	Microsoft Excel-A...	22 KB
APUSharesInFeedSupply_DummyData.xlsx	07.04.2024 22:50	Microsoft Excel-A...	60 KB
CommodityCharacteristics_DummyData...	01.04.2024 09:34	Microsoft Excel-A...	70 KB
CommodityTrees_Utilization_DummyDat...	01.04.2024 10:17	Microsoft Excel-A...	2'556 KB
HerdStructures_DummyData.xlsx	01.04.2024 15:38	Microsoft Excel-A...	58 KB
ProductionUnits_DummyData.xlsx	23.03.2024 23:53	Microsoft Excel-A...	1'188 KB
FeedingRations_DummyData.xlsx	05.04.2024 15:30	Microsoft Excel-A...	680 KB

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Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
SOLm_ReadDummyData.R	08.04.2024 23:30	R-Datei	25 KB
SOLm_ReadFAOSTAT.R	27.03.2024 20:41	R-Datei	97 KB
SOLm_ReadIPCCData.R	08.04.2024 23:28	R-Datei	23 KB

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Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
Match_FAO_SOLm.xlsx	01.03.2024 23:06	Microsoft Excel-A...	259 KB
Matching_sheet_SOL_EUROSTAT.xlsx	27.02.2024 07:49	Microsoft Excel-A...	27 KB

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Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
 SOLm_Scenario_DummyDataBaseline.R	09.04.2024 16:42	R-Datei	9 KB
 SOLm_Scenario_FAOSTATBaseline.R	08.04.2024 23:29	R-Datei	15 KB

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Name	Änderungsdatum	Typ	Größe
 SOLm_CTCalculations.R	09.04.2024 19:32	R-Datei	18 KB

Concluding remarks and questions

- Option spaces
- Scenarios

- Production Units
- Commodities
- Processes

- Number of PUs
- Outputs and Yields of PUs
- Internal structure of PUs: herd, crop rotation
- Share and extraction rates of processes
- Input allocation to PUs: fertilizer, feeding rations

References

- Galloway et al. 2021: <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurevenviron-012420-045120>
- Muller et al. 2017: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-017-01410-w>
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FiBL

Contact

adrian.mueller@fibl.org

Direct phone: +41 62 865 72 52

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL
Ackerstrasse 113, Box 219
5070 Frick
Switzerland

Phone +41 62 865 72 72
Fax +41 62 865 72 73

info.suisse@fibl.org
www.fibl.org